

well as a mathematician, and it was from him that Jefferson learned his first lessons in agnosticism.\*

By the professor the student was introduced to Francis Fauquier, the Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia:—the ablest man, in Jefferson's opinion, that ever held that position. Fauquier was a man of the world, an imitator of the manners and a disciple of the philosophy of Chesterfield, a liberal host, and a thorough-going sportsman, both on the turf and at the table. Jefferson spent much time in the company of the governor, and learned many things that were to be avoided and much that was to be imitated. A third associate was George Wythe, a high-principled, scholarly lawyer, who\* has the honor of having been the law preceptor of Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall and Henry Clay. These four—Dr. Small, Governor Fauquier, George Wythe, and "Tom" Jefferson—were the acknowledged intellectual leaders of Williamsburg; and who shall say that such a coterie was not a university in itself? It proved to be a university to Jefferson. From Fauquier he learned manners, from Wythe the meaning of scholarship, and from Dr. Small the habit of thinking for himself. His mind thus awakened never relapsed into provincial slumber. The attainments of his friends stimulated him to an industry that knew no bounds. He sometimes studied fifteen hours a day.

After two years of this sweet and wholesome intimacy, the circle was broken. Dr. Small returned to Great Britain, there to become famous. The heart of the college was now gone, and Jefferson left it to return to his home at Shadwell. He took with him a sound knowledge of French, Greek, Latin, and the higher mathematics, good health, and an open, inquisitive mind. Better than all, he took away with him good habits. He had refused to join in the governor's gaming, he had not partaken of his wine, and he had not learned to use tobacco, f He left college morally sound.

There was one thing the youth of seventeen had brought to Williamsburg that the youth of nineteen did not take away

\*See Religion, page 357; Christianity, page 152; Jesus, page 270. †See Habits of Jefferson, page 237.